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## **Sen. Jelinek joins national education steering committee**

**LANSING** –Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, recently accepted an invitation to become a member of the Civic Mission of Schools’ national steering committee.

The steering committee functions as the board of trustees and is committed to implementing the recommendations of the CMS report.

“I am honored to join this national committee and work with others who are dedicated to civic education,” Jelinek said. “It is important for young students to be familiar and interested in government and democracy. We must focus our attention on bringing civic education back into schools.”

The CMS report reflects a broad consensus that most young Americans have a poor understanding of representative democracy and their role in it, and that the schools need to play a major role in fixing the problem. With the challenges facing our nation today, the need to prepare our young people to be active and effective citizens is even greater. Some of the suggestions are:

- Instruction in government, history, law, and democracy;
- Class discussion of current local national and international issues and events; and
- Participation in school governance.

Funding for the CMS includes grants from sources such as the Carnegie Corp. of New York, CIRCLE: The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, and the Knight Foundation. The Carnegie Corp. and the Knight Foundation each recently approved multi-year grants of \$1 million to be used for improving civic education.

The CMS is part of the Council for Excellence in Government, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. The council’s mission is to improve understanding of, participation in, and performance of our government and representative democracy.

Jelinek will meet with the steering committee two or three times each year. His first meeting will be on April 16 in Washington, D.C.

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